

Testimony Concerning Raised Bill 6303
Barbara Rudnick
Friends of New Britain Animal Control Volunteer

Senator Cassano, Representative Gentile, members of the committee, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Raised Bill 6303, An Act Concerning Municipal Animal Shelters.

My name is Barbara Rudnick and I am a volunteer with the Friends of New Britain Animal Control, a member of CT Votes for Animals, the CT Underhound Railroad and I also work with feral cats. I have been involved with animal welfare for over 20 years. As a volunteer with the New Britain Animal Shelter I have first-hand knowledge of animals not receiving the urgent veterinary care they require.

During this past summer unfortunately, there was a dog named Tidbit, who began to display signs of Parvo virus. If you are not familiar with the virus, it is highly communicable and very resilient. Dogs that do contract Parvo and remain untreated die a horrible painful death from the inside out. Symptoms include vomiting, runny stool (which can be bloody), excessive drinking to compensate and GI pain. These symptoms get progressively worse until the dog eventually dies. It is extremely important that quarantine procedures be followed when an animal is diagnosed with the virus and that they be tested as soon as symptoms are observed.

Even though Tidbit began displaying obvious signs of Parvo virus, and the volunteers at the shelter pleaded that the dog be taken to a vet, the Animal Control Officer refused to bring the dog to a Vet until days later when Tid Bit was in the final stages of the virus and near death.

For days, this dog suffered unnecessarily from an agonizing virus before he was euthanized. In addition to denying Tidbit urgent care, the Animal Control Officer did not follow correct quarantine procedures. This was the 3rd time in less than 6 months, which the facility had been contaminated with the virus.

The lack of both prompt and proper veterinary care along with improper quarantine procedures resulted in the deaths of numerous dogs at this pound. These were all beautiful, young, healthy dogs when they entered the shelter.

It is a disgrace that the dogs who are taken into the municipal shelters are quite often denied veterinary care. I have looked into their eyes and seen their pain and suffering. For the volunteers who care for these dogs I cannot tell you the heartbreak it is to watch these dogs who are all so vulnerable, suffer unnecessarily. Passing this law will give those animals the necessary care they require and hopefully end their suffering.

Thank you for allowing me to submit this testimony.

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